

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 229

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to urge the Tennessee Valley Authority to accelerate the installation of pollution reduction equipment at its Kingston coal-fired steam plant to ensure that all of Roane County meets the Environmental Protection Agency's air quality standards by 2008.

WHEREAS, one of the goals of the State of Tennessee is that all of the State's citizens should have safe and pollution-free air to breathe; recently, Roane County has been advised that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has given the County a partial designation for non-attainment status for particulate air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the EPA identified non-attainment area is centered at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Kingston steam plant, and the majority of this small-particle particulate pollution consists of sulfur dioxide emissions; and

WHEREAS, sulfur dioxide emissions are known to be damaging to health, aggravating asthma and other respiratory problems in children and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases in adults; such emissions from the Kingston steam plant put the citizens of Roane County at risk; and

WHEREAS, the existence of a non-attainment area within Roane County's borders reduces the County's ability to recruit good jobs, since any new factories or expansion of existing factories will only add new sources of emissions, and also preclude further road construction in the non-attainment area since new roads must be planned so that they do not worsen air quality; and

WHEREAS, the scenic beauty of East Tennessee and particularly the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is already severely compromised from fine particle emission; the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has been designated as one of the nation's most polluted parks

and the City of Knoxville has been ranked among the most polluted areas of the country, due largely to the emissions from coal-fired plants; and

WHEREAS, the remaining high impact course of action to reduce particulate matter in the Tennessee Valley is for TVA to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from its power plants; to its credit, TVA has already initiated plans to install scrubbers in the Kingston plant by 2010 to alleviate the sulfur dioxide and other emissions problems; and

WHEREAS, the Roane County Commission has by recent resolution urged TVA to accelerate the installation of pollution reduction equipment at its Kingston coal-fired steam plant to ensure that Roane County is able to meet EPA air quality standards by 2008; this legislative body whole-heartedly concurs in that request; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this legislative body most earnestly urges TVA to accelerate the installation of pollution reduction equipment at its Kingston coal-fired steam plant to insure that Roane County is able to meet EPA air quality standards by 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.